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CONFIDENTIAL

IAC-D-101
24 January 1956

INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Intelligence Requirements on U. S. Citizens Held in Sino-Soviet Bloc Countries

The attached memorandum for the Chairman, Intelligence Advisory Committee, from the Acting Deputy Director for Intelligence, The Joint Staff, is circulated for information as a preliminary to IAC early consideration of appropriate action.

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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
Washington 25, D. C.

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11 January 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Intelligence Advisory Committee

Subject : Intelligence Requirements on U.S. Citizens Held in Sino-Soviet Bloc Countries

1. In a memorandum, dated 21 November 1955, addressed to the Deputy Director for Intelligence, the Joint Staff, the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Special Operations) requested the Joint Intelligence Committee to "make a study of the intelligence requirements for an effective prisoner identification and repatriation program and make recommendations for its adoption."

2. The results of this study indicate certain intelligence collection and production requirements which should be satisfied. The study addressed itself primarily to the consideration of unaccounted for prisoners of war and other missing people who are residuals after all normal accounting processes, prisoner exchanges and the like have been completed. The military personnel in this category remain in a missing status for a period of one year after which, by virtue of Public Law 490, 77th Congress (Missing Persons Act), they are declared "missing and presumed dead", benefits are paid to their survivors and for all practical intents and purposes their cases are closed. The intent of the law, undoubtedly, is to relieve hardship on the survivors and the process should be continued. However, there should be no relaxation of effort, by virtue of that law, in determining the final status of these individuals, removing all "presumptions", recovering them if still alive or otherwise making final disposition of each individual case.

3. There is a requirement at this time for a coordinated and continuous effort to collect all available information and to produce intelligence on missing persons. Such an effort is

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considered mandatory and will form the basis for recovery efforts by the appropriate U.S. action agencies. This effort is in keeping with the best American traditions which have always placed a high value on the welfare of individuals. The machinery to accomplish this task already exists. Some of this machinery is operating to this end now in unilateral efforts, e.g., individual military Service efforts to trace their missing people resulting from the Korean incident after the conclusion of "Operation Big Switch". However, it is considered necessary to coordinate and intensify these efforts.

4. Enclosed herewith (Annex hereto) is a tabular display of missing U. S. Nationals who are unaccounted for as of 1 December 1955. As you will note, the majority of these people are a responsibility for accounting purposes of the Chinese Communists. The 1 December 1955 total of 518 missing persons represents a reduction of 426 from the 1953 total of 944. This reduction was accomplished primarily by our own efforts with little or no cooperation from the Sino-Soviet Bloc nations.

5. It is recommended that this matter be placed before the Intelligence Advisory Committee for consideration, as a matter of priority, and that action be taken to satisfy this important intelligence requirement which is considered to be vital to the determination of the status of these missing persons and for their recovery if alive.

/s/ ROBERT TOTTEN
Colonel, USAF
Acting Deputy Director
for Intelligence
The Joint Staff

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ANNEX

STATISTICAL BREAKDOWN OF MISSING PERSONS

	Communist China	USSR & Eur. Sats.	Total
Civilians	14	1	15
Army	244	10	254
Navy	3	10	13
Air Force	190	33	223
Marine Corps	13	-	13
Coast Guard	-	-	-
	464	54	518

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